

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A telecommunication network having at least one database of functions for controlling the network, said database comprising at least a data function and a data control function;  
characterised in that:  
the database is replicated a plurality of times, the database of one of said replicated databases is a primary database, the data control function of which is arranged to generate signals for synchronised updating of all of said replicated databases, ~~and~~ at least a second database is a primary standby database, the data control function of which is arranged to generate signals for synchronised updating of all of said replicated databases in the event of a failure of said primary ~~database~~, database, and at least one secondary database other than said primary database and said primary standby database, wherein the at least secondary database is arranged to signal to said primary and/or said primary standby database when it has been updated in response to the updating signals from said primary database or said primary standby database.
2. (Original) A network according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of databases are primary standby databases.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently amended) A method of operating a telecommunication network, in which the network is controlled by at least one database of functions, said database comprising at least a data function and a data control function;  
characterised in that:  
the database is replicated a plurality of times, and the method comprises:  
designating one of said replicated databases as a primary database;

designating at least one other of said replicated databases as a primary standby database;

designating at least one other of said replicated databases as a secondary database;

updating all of said replicated databases on the basis of updating signals from said primary database unless said primary database has failed; ~~and~~

updating all of said replicated databases on the basis of updating signals from said at least one primary standby database when said primary database has ~~failed~~; failed; and

signaling to the primary and/or the primary standby database(s) when the at least one secondary database has been updated in response to the updating signals from the primary database or the primary standby database.

5. (Currently amended) A telecommunications network comprising:  
a primary database having at least a data function and a data control function; and  
a plurality of ~~secondary~~ databases which are replicas of the primary database,  
wherein at least one of the ~~secondary~~ plurality of databases in a primary standby ~~database~~;  
database, and wherein at least one other of the plurality of databases is a secondary database;

wherein the data control function of the primary database is arranged to generate signals for synchronised updating the ~~secondary~~ plurality of databases, and wherein the data control function of the primary standby database is arranged to generate signals for synchronised updating of ~~all of the plurality of secondary~~ databases in the even of a failure of the primary ~~database~~; database; and

wherein the at least one secondary database is arranged to signal to the primary or the primary standby database when it has been updated in response to the updating signals from the primary database.

6. (Original) A network according to claim 5, further comprising a plurality of primary standby databases.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) A method of operating a telecommunication network, comprising:

- providing an initial database having at least a data function and a data control function;
- replicating the initial database to form plurality of replicated databases;
- designating one of the replicated databases as a primary database;
- designating at least one other of the replicated databases as a primary standby database;
- designating at least one other of said replicated databases as a secondary database;
- updating all of the replicated database on the basis of updating signals received from the primary database unless the primary database has failed;~~and~~
- updating all of the replicated databases on the basis of updating signals from the at least one primary standby database when the primary database has ~~failed~~; failed; and
- signaling to the primary and/or the primary standby database(s) when the at least one secondary database has been updated in response to the updating signals from the primary database or the primary standby database.

9. (New) A network according to claim 1, wherein the at least one secondary database is a plurality of secondary databases.

10. (New) A method of operating a telecommunication network according to claim 4, wherein the at least one secondary database is a plurality of secondary databases.

11. (New) A telecommunications network according to claim 5, wherein the at least one secondary database is a plurality of secondary databases.

12. (New) A method of operating a telecommunication network according to claim 8, wherein the at least one secondary database is a plurality of secondary databases.